By the King.

A Proclamation commanding the due execution of the Lawes made for setting the poore on worke.

WHereas nothing is more agreeable to the true rules of Charitie and Policie, then the relieuing of the truly indigent and impotent poore, and the setting on worke of those who are able to labour; And whereas diuers good Lawes, haue with great prouidence been made heretofore to that purpose, the neglect whereof is the occasion of much disorder, whereby the poorer sort grow to idlenesse, and consequently runne into many inconueniences: His Maiestie therefore, in his great wisdome and princely prouidence, for the good and prosperitie of his people, by the aduice of his Priuie Counsell, and of his Judges, doth straitly charge and command, that all the Lawes heretofore made, and now standing in force, for the reliefe of the indigent and impotent poore, for binding out Apprentices, for prouiding of Stockes, and for setting the poore on worke, bee duely and carefully put in execution.

And whereas by the Lawes of this Realme, the inhabitants of each Parish, where such Parish is of sufficient abilitie, ought to prouide for their owne poore in all the cases aforesaid, and where the Parish shall not bee of abilitie so to doe, the whole Hundred, Lathe, or Wapentake, is chargeable therewith, but if that also by reason of the multitude of the poore, or want of abilitie of the Inhabitants be not sufficient, that then the whole County is bound to contribute thereunto, whereof the Justices of Peace of each County, at their generall or Quarter Sessions, are to take speciall care, and there order the same accordingly: To the end that a due preparation may be made herein before the Generall Sessions, in those Counties especially, where, vpon any accident

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there hath fallen, or shall fall out, a more speciall occasion to prouide Stockes, and to set the poore on worke; His Maiesty doth hereby straightly charge and command, that the Ministers, Churchwardens, and Ouerseers for the poore in euery Parish, doe forthwith assemble together, and take these things into their serious consideration, and thereof with all speede aduertise the next Justices of Peace, according to the Law, and that the Justices of Peace in their seuerall Diuisions, doe also meete at some conuenient times and places to vnderstand the true state of the poore in those parts, and thereof giue true and full information to the rest of the Justices of the peace at the next Generall or Quarter Sessions; And that at those Sessions they all take the same into their best and most serious considerations, and settle and order the same accordingly, as that which doeth greatly tend to the glory of God, and the honour of his Maiesties gouernement, and will very much conduce to the peace, quiet, and prosperitie of the whole Kingdome.

And his Maiestie doeth further charge and require his Judges in their seuerall circuits, to take an exact account how these things haue been, and shall be from time to time obserued, and what the successe thereof shall bee, from whom his Maiestie will expect to be truely informed at their returnes out of their circuits.

And his Maiesties expresse pleasure and Royall command is, that all and euery Sheriffes, Maiors, Justices of Peace, Constables, Churchwardens, Ouerseers of the poore, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, and all other his Officers, Ministers and louing Subiects in their seuerall places doe faithfully and diligently obserue, execute, and performe all and euery the Premisses as they tender his Maiesties fauour, and would auoide his highnes displeasure for the neglect thereof at their vttermost perils.

Giuen at Our Court at Greenwich, the seuenteenth day of May, in the fift yeere of Our Reigne, of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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